

Lake Munson Action Plan Overview

Over the past several decades, Leon County, City of Tallahassee, and Blueprint IA have invested hundreds of millions of dollars for projects in the Lake Munson basin and prioritized upstream improvements which provide water quality treatment, reduce the transport of sediment, collect trash, and benefit the Lake water quality. On October 11, 2022, the County Commission approved the Lake Munson Action Plan which provides short- and long-term strategies to address the challenges experienced during the Summer of 2022 including algal blooms, fish kills, depressed oxygen levels, and invasive vegetation. On March 21, 2023, a six-month update was provided to the Board and modifications to the plan were approved. This document provides an update on the Action Plan status.

Lake Munson Drawdown

- Started on November 1, 2022 and extended through Spring of 2024 in consultation with FWC
- Allows sediment to dry out and form a “cap”, reducing nutrients transferring into the Lake
- Dredging not viable due to causing more harm than good, resuspending sediment and contaminants, habitat degradation, removal of seed source, and underlying karst features
- Emergency Action Plan for weather events

Enhanced Monitoring

- Supplements County’s quarterly water quality sampling in Lake Munson and in Munson Slough
- Drawdown Water Quality Study
 - Monthly water chemistry samples during drawdown
 - Munson Slough upstream and downstream of the Lake
- Aerial Lake Bottom Topographic Survey
 - Quarterly during drawdown
- Post-Drawdown Water Quality Study
 - Begins upon Lake refill
 - Monthly water chemistry and flow samples for 2 years
 - 4 locations (upstream of Lake Henrietta, upstream of Lake, downstream of Lake)
- Point-Source Testing for Contaminants
 - One-time sampling
 - 4 locations (in Lake, upstream of Lake, downstream of Lake)
 - Validate previous sediment studies

Long-Term Best Management Practices

- Invasive Exotic Vegetation Management Program
 - Supplemental to FWC’s invasive plant management program
- Algal Bloom Management Program
- Routine Periodic Drawdowns
 - Implemented every 5-10 years
 - Frequency determined by health of the lake and in consultation with FWC and SAC
- Innovative Technology Exploration
 - County staff continue to explore new and innovative methods for lake management and presented to SAC and state agency partners for evaluation

The next six-month update will be presented to the Board at the September 12, 2023 meeting.